



Testimony of Carol Scully
Director of Advocacy, The Arc of Connecticut, Inc.
LCO No. 4709 H.B. 6781 An Act Addressing Housing
Affordability For Residents In The State

February 27, 2023

Members of the Housing Committee: Co-Chair Representative Luxenberg, Co-Chair Senator Moore, Vice Chair Representative Khan, Vice Chair Senator Lesser, Ranking Member Senator Sampson, Ranking Member Representative Scott, Senator Fonfara, Senator Hochadel, Representative Brown, Representative Butler, Representative Gonzalez, Representative Roberts, Representative Polleta, Representative Weir, Representative Zullo:

The Arc Connecticut is the oldest and the largest community-based organization advocating for and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. We work tirelessly to uphold our vision that every individual and family living with I/DD has access to the information, advocacy, and skills they need to support their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

We are a chapter of The Arc of The United States, which has 675 chapters in 49 states and over 5,000 service locations. Nationwide, we have approximately 7,000 board members, 124,000 staff, 46,000 volunteers and collectively we serve more than 1 million people with I/DD and their family members.

In Connecticut, our 14 Arc local chapters deliver over \$100 million in jobs, supports and services to thousands of people in 162 communities. Together Arcs are the largest provider of supports and services for people with I/DD and their families in the state, providing about 96% of the services.

The Arc of Connecticut supports H.B. 6781 requiring each municipality in consultation with the State Responsible Growth Coordinator to prepare, amend or adapt an affordable housing plan to advance affordable housing within the municipality, no later than the plan date set by the coordinator.

Currently in Connecticut, approximately 29 out of 169 towns have above a 10% benchmark of affordable housing units. Allocating such need to municipalities will help ensure more affordable housing units in each municipality, housing that will be available to persons with intellectual developmental disabilities, developmental disabilities and Autism. As we plan for Connecticut to age in place, we need to include the disability community in these plans.

Unfortunately, CT's high cost of living makes it difficult for people with disabilities to afford housing, especially if they don't qualify for state waiver supports and or rely solely on Supplemental Social Security Income/Disability payments. Living as independently as possible in the community are among

the most important values and goals shared by people with disabilities especially persons with Intellectual, Developmental Disabilities (IDD), their families and advocates.

Every municipality must have affordable housing options so their residents can age in place in the community of their choice and/or find affordable housing near their place of employment. The Arc of Connecticut is also in support of penalties for municipalities that do not submit their fair share housing plans.

The Arc of Connecticut urges the legislature to pass H.B. 6781 to improve access for affordable housing to everyone in Connecticut.

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